

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 14-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 14-16 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement.

The Examiner states that restriction to one of the following Groups is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to repeated bits, classified in class 714, subclass 822; or
- II. Claims 14-16, drawn to puncturing, classified in class 714, subclass 790.

Applicants provisionally elect, without prejudice and with traverse, Group I containing Claims 1-8 for examination on the merits.

The restriction requirement of Group I and Group II is respectfully traversed. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement because it is believed that Claims 1-8 and Claims 14-16 can be combined and examined as one group of claims, rather than the two groups as indicated by the Examiner.

Independent Claim 1 recites a QCTC (Quasi-Complementary Turbo Code) generator having a turbo encoder, a channel interleaver, and a QCTC generator, whereas independent Claim 14 recites a QCTC generator having a turbo encoder, a channel interleaver, and a QCTC generator. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 recites that a QCTC generator generates a QCTC sub-code by repeating a serially concatenated symbol sequence and selecting a predetermined number of symbols, while independent Claim 14 recites a QCTC generator in more general terms. Accordingly, Group I and Group II are not claiming different inventions having distinct utility. Rather, independent claims 1 and 14 simply provide different scope of protection. It is respectfully submitted that Groups I and II should be examined together.

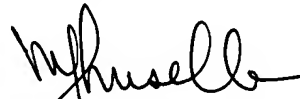
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully propose that Group I and Group II above can be classified into one group. No benefit is derived from maintaining a two-group restriction requirement, and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, restricting Group I and Group II

into two groups is respectfully requested. As stated within the M.P.E.P. § 803, separate classification is not sufficient where the search and examination of the entire application can be done at once without serious burden. As such, it is respectfully submitted that withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement regarding Group I and Group II is warranted, and reclassification of Claims 1-8 and 14-16 into a single group is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner agree, Claims 1-8 and 14-16 would remain in the case for examination on the merits.

Should the Examiner disagree, as stated above, Applicants elect Group I, containing Claims 1-8, and also reserve the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected claims.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-8 and 14-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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